

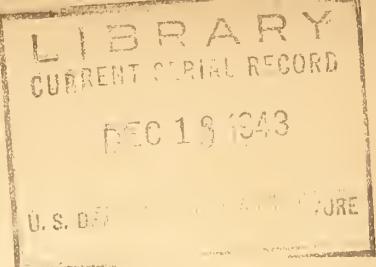
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United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
CENTRAL STATES FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
Columbus, Ohio



Technical Note 61

October 1, 1943

A Preliminary Report on Lumber Production for 1942 in KANSAS^{1/}

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During 1942, 222 active sawmills in Kansas produced 14,649,000 board feet of lumber. In addition, some 142 idle mills brought the total number in the State to 364. Early in the year mills were active and producing rapidly; but by midyear loss of labor to other industries and to the armed forces was telling and production lessened materially, particularly in the smaller mills. A sustaining factor was the walnut industry, which, being devoted to war effort, did not suffer as much as producers of mixed hardwoods.

Final production statistics which are now being compiled by the Bureau of the Census and which will be released by that agency in due time, are based on a complete coverage of the industry by mail supplemented by a Forest Service survey to get information from nonreporting mills and from those not previously on record.

The lumber industry of Kansas occurs predominantly in the eastern half or third of the State. The number of mills per county falls off rapidly as one moves from the eastern tiers of counties westward onto the prairies and plains. Lumber production likewise is greatest along the eastern wooded stream courses and adjacent to the Ozarkian province with its extensive forest lands. An exception to this generalization occurs in the walnut lumber industry, which largely concentrates its log supplies from a considerable area at points where better manufacture can be done at permanent plants.

The lumber production of Kansas is predominantly hardwood (99.5 percent in 1942) with additional small quantities of softwoods originating in planted groves, windbreaks and shelterbelts; in salvage of piling and other log wreckage during flood time by a few operators along the Missouri River, and in use of native red cedar. The walnut trade referred to above led with 41.5 percent of the State's production; cottonwood followed (25.0 percent), then oak (15.6 percent), elm, sycamore, maple, hackberry, and lesser quantities of other woods (table 1). The small farmer-owned mills occupy an important place in the State's sawmill industry. Their combined output was 18.7 percent —

^{1/} Preliminary data subject to revision. Final production statistics will be released by the Bureau of the Census. Both preliminary and final statistics are the result of surveys made by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce and the Statistics Division, War Production Board.

almost a fifth of the State's production of hardwood lumber. This product probably never enters the regular channels of trade, and moves instead directly from the sawmill to the farms where it is used for maintenance, new outbuildings and other farm needs.

Table 1. -- Estimated lumber production in KANSAS, by kinds of wood and size class of mill in 1942

Kind of wood	Quantity produced per annum :		Total	Proportion		
	by mills producing:					
	49 M & less	50 M or more				
	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	Percent		
<u>Softwoods</u>						
Cedar	7	-	7	-		
Cypress 1/	-	30	30	0.2		
Pine, yellow 2/	3	9	12	0.1		
Fir (Douglas) 3/	2	20	22	0.2		
Total softwoods	12	59	71	0.5		
<u>Hardwoods</u>						
Ash	43	31	74	0.5		
Basswood	9	15	24	0.2		
Cottonwood	780	2,884	3,664	25.0		
Elm	537	1,028	1,565	10.7		
Hickory	22	42	64	0.4		
Maple	32	152	184	1.3		
Oak	898	1,386	2,284	15.6		
Sycamore	218	239	457	3.1		
Walnut 4/	89	5,993	6,082	41.5		
<u>Other Hardwoods</u>						
Hackberry	95	80	175	1.2		
Honey Locust	1	-	1	-		
Kentucky coffeetree	-	3	3	-		
Osage Orange 5/	1	-	1	-		
Total hardwoods	2,725	11,853	14,578	99.5		
Total all woods	2,737	11,912	14,649	100.0		
Percent	18.7	81.3	100.0	-		

1/ Salvage of piling captured as flood water drift on the Missouri River; not native.

2/ From trucked-in logs or from planted groves, shelterbelts, etc.; not native.

3/ Possibly from bridge timbers or salvage of piling; not native.

4/ Includes some logs from plantations, but proportion unknown.

5/ Planted hedge rows, trees, or groves.

In table 2, the State's lumber output has been compiled, by counties, and by two mill classes, to show the number of sawmills in an active and idle status and the production in each. Annual production varied from 2,000 board feet per county to 5,267,000 board feet per county.

Table 2.-- Estimated lumber production and number of sawmills by counties and by size classes of mill, in KANSAS, in 1942 1

County or counties known to contain sawmills	Production class			Total mills	Total Mills Production	Active mills		
	Idle mills	49 M per year or less Mills	50 M per year or more Production			Total Mills	Total Production	Mills Production
	No.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.
Anderson	2	6	118	-	-	8	118	6
Brown	1	6	148	-	-	7	148	6
Chase	3	4	87	-	-	7	87	4
Cherokee & Lambette	9	6	130	3	410	18	540	9
Clay & Cloud	1	3	31	-	-	4	31	3
Coffey	2	4	69	-	-	6	69	4
Crawford, Bourbon & Neosho	10	19	453	3	482	32	935	22
Dickinson	2	5	27	-	-	7	27	5
Doniphan & Atchison	8	6	75	4	499	18	574	10
Edwards	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ellsworth, Decatur, Mitchell, Osborne & Republic	3	5	61	-	-	8	61	5
Franklin, Douglas & Miami	10	14	197	3	225	27	422	17
Geary, Shawnee & Wabaunsee	10	6	88	-	-	16	88	6
Greenwood, Allen & Woodson	3	8	123	3	178	14	301	11
Harvey	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Jackson & Jefferson	7	7	134	3	253	17	387	10
Jewell	3	3	11	-	-	6	11	3

Table 2 (continued)

County or counties known to contain sawmills	Production class			Total mills	Total Mills	Active mills		
	Idle mills	49 M per year or less	50 M per year or more			Total mills	Total Mills	Production mills
	No.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.	M feet b.m.	No.
Kingman, McPherson & Sedgwick	6	4	71	3	411	13	482	7
Linn	5	6	107	3	685	14	792	9
Marshall, Ottawa, Riley & Washington	12	11	119	4	959	27	1,078	15
Montgomery, Chatauqua & Elk	11	4	120	5	915	20	1,035	9
Morris	4	4	46	-	-	8	46	4
Nemaha	5	9	130	-	-	14	130	9
Osage & Lyon	3	8	53	3	222	14	275	11
Pottawatomie	7	6	71	3	169	16	240	9
Rawlins	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sumner, Butler & Cowley	2	7	96	4	933	13	1,029	11
Wilson	3	9	139	-	-	12	139	9
Wyandotte, Johnson & Leavenworth	7	3	33	5	5,571	15	5,604	8
Total	142	173	2,737	49	11,912	364	14,649	222

1/ Several counties have been combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments. Out of Kansas' 105 counties, only 57 are known to contain one or more sawmills, and therefore this table contains only these counties.

Further analysis of the production by sawmills with an output of 50 M board feet per annum, or more (table 3) shows that about 40 percent of the lumber came from mills whose production was 50 to 499 M for the year. Similarly, larger mills producing 500 - 999 M and 1,000 M board feet, or over, together, produced a like amount, or about 41 percent. The importance of the numerous small farmer-owned mills in Kansas was pointed out earlier.

Table 3. -- Number and estimated production of sawmills
by production classes, in KANSAS, in 1942

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Sawmills	Lumber production	
	No.	M feet b.m.	Percent
1 - 49	173	2,737	18.7
50 - 499	46	5,929	40.5
500 - 999	1	5,983 } 1/	40.8
1000 - 4999	2		
Total	222	14,649	100.0

1/ Combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments.

Stocks on hand at the sawmills were reported by only 24 of the 222 active mills, about 10 percent of the industry (by number). (Table 4) However, these 24 mills represented about half of the State's production. Again, compilation shows the relation of these supplies to size of operation, that stocks increased at the few small and medium-sized mills holding lumber, but that the stocks of the largest producers declined by about a third. In the aggregate, reported stocks in Kansas held steady and totaled about the same at the beginning and end of the year.

Table 4. -- Number and estimated production of mills reporting stocks
on January 1 and on December 31, 1942 and the amount of
those stocks, by production classes, in KANSAS

Production class (M feet b.m.)	Mills reporting stocks on hand	Stocks on hand, 1942		
	Mills : Production	January 1 : December 31		
	No.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.	M feet b.m.
1 - 49	10	217	43	112
50 - 499	11	1,497	44	193
500 - 999	1	5,983 } 1/	759 } 1/	562 } 1/
1000 - 4999	2			
Total	24	7,697	846	867

1/ Combined to avoid disclosures of individual establishments.

